States Item

DA Continues Hunt for Probe Witness Novel

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District Attorney Jim Garrison's office today continued a search for a reluctant assassination probe witness, who skipped town early this week.

Gordon Novel, 29, who has been tagged by Garrison as an important material witness for the Orleans Parish Grand Jury which is looking at the Kennedy investigation, was reported seeking refuge in Chicago.

His attorney, Steven R. Plotkin, says he knows where Novel is staying, but will not tell.

NOVEL SOLD HIS bar on the fringe of the French Quarter Sunday and left town before a second grand jury subpena could be served. He appeared before the jury once March 16. Plotkin confirms that Novel moved out of his apartment during the week.

Novel popped up in Columbus, Ohio, Wednesday criticiz-

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ing Garrison's investigation. In an interview Novel said that at one time he believed Garrison was on to something important but that now he has good reason to believe this is not true.

He attributed Garrison's actions to political motives.

Prior to being questioned before the jury, Novel said he thought Garrison wanted to talk to him about the activities of Sergio Arcacha, a former Cuba exile leader here. Arcacha, who is now living in Dallas, was instrumental in training a group of men for the Bay of Pigs invasion.

PLOTKIN SAID that he will file motions on behalf of Novel Monday, but would not say what kind of motions.

Yesterday, the criminal sheriff's office sent Chicago police a telegram requesting the arrest of Novel.

The wire gave Chicago authorities an FBI file number and a fingerprint classification for Novel.

Novel disappeared from Columbus early Thursday after leaving a note indicating he was heading for Chicago. He said he would not return to New Orleans unless guaranteed freedom from "harassment."

MEANWHILE, CLAY L. Shaw, destined for trial on a charge of conspiring to murder President Kennedy, is resting on the Gulf Coast in the company of friends.

He is due back in New Orleans Monday. His whereabouts are being kept secret by his attorneys.